AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS, COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR

Please cancel claims 8-12, 14-15 and 17-19 without prejudice or disclaimer to their underlying subject matter and add new claims 20-32 which correspond to the canceled subject matter.

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

20. (New) A liposomal vaccine composition comprising a plasmid encapsulated within a liposome, said plasmid comprising a gene encoding for a hemagglutinin protein.

21. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, which is deliverable to a respiratory tract using intranasal administration and/or by aerosol inhalation.

22. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, which prevents or treats an influenza virus infection.

23. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, which elicits long-lasting protective antiviral immune responses against influenza viruses.

24. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the plasmid is a plasmid vector construct pCI-HA10 which expresses said hemagglutinin protein in a host.

25. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the plasmid and liposome are present in a concentration which ensures encapsulation of said plasmid in said liposome.

26. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the concentration by weight of liposome is 25 times the concentration by weight of plasmid.

27. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein said liposome comprises a formulation of 7% 1,2 dioleoyl-3-dimethylammonium chloride (DODAC), 78% 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycrerol-3-phospho-ethanolamine (DOPE) and 15% polyethylene glycol C8 ceramide ($PEG_{2000}C_8CER$).

28. (New) A method of producing a liposomal vaccine composition, said method comprising:

(1) preparing 7% DODAC, 78% DOPE, and 15% $PEG_{2000}C_8CER$ at 10mg/ml concentrations to form a lipid film at 50 °C for 2 hours under vacuum;

(2) incubating the lipid film at 50 °C for 2 hours under vacuum;

(3) reconstituting the lipid film with distilled water and 1M β-octylglucanopyranoside detergent at 20% of the total preparation volume;

(4) adding a plasmid DNA to the lipid film at a concentration of 400 μg DNA/ml of 10 mg/ml, said plasmid comprising a gene encoding for a hemagglutinin protein;

(5) transferring the reconstituted preparation into dialysis tubing and dialyzing in 1X HEPES buffer solution (150 mM NaCI, 20 mM Hepes, pH 7.4) at 23 °C for 15 hours; and

(6) removing the free, non-encapsulate plasmid DNA from encapsulated plasmid DNA on a DEAE Sepharose CL-6B anion exchange column to obtain the liposomal vaccine composition comprising the encapsulated plasmid DNA within the liposome.

29. (New) A method for preventing and/or treating influenza virus infection, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of the composition of claim 20.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the composition is administered to a respiratory tract using intranasal administration, and/or aerosol inhalation.

31. (New) A method for eliciting long-lasting protective antiviral immune responses against influenza viruses, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of the composition of claim 20.

32. (New) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the composition is administered to a respiratory tract using intranasal administration, and/or aerosol inhalation.